

United States Government
2005 Trade Capacity Building Assistance (\$US)
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Activity Title	Activity Description	TCB Category	FY 05 Total
CAFTA-DR Impact on Dominican Manufacture Sector	This activity evaluates the potential impact of the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) on the manufacturing sector, based on quantitative analysis. To measure the impact of DR-CAFTA on the manufacturing sector, the evaluation will carry-out the assessment of the impact by product categories, classifying them in accordance to their sensibility and export potential identify actions that need to be taken by the industrial sector in order to benefit from the advantages derived from the DR-CAFTA identify key sub-sectors in the industrial sector (sectors with higher-development capabilities of greater value added and identification of possible production chains) and design scenarios which include the industrial sector as a whole, assuming positions regarding the Free Trade Zones and toward integration in the domestic market. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Export Promotion	60,000
Competitive Strategy and Action Plan for Mango Exports	A market study for the Eastern U.S. will be performed to provide the basis for developing a competitive strategy for Dominican mangoes in the U.S. market from which an Action Plan will be developed. This will assist the Dominican exporters to identify specific geographic targets in the U.S. and buyers in those markets. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Export Promotion	75,000
		Trade-Related Agriculture	75,000
		Activity Total	150,000
Competitive Strategy and Action Plan for Oriental Vegetables Exports	The Development Association (APEDEVE) and the Association of Oriental Vegetable Exporters (ADEXVO) in La Vega were assisted in developing a strategy and work plan to export oriental fruits and vegetables to the US and Canadian markets. Currently, our assistance is now helping them to implement the strategy and action plan. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Export Promotion	50,000
		Trade-Related Agriculture	50,000
		Activity Total	100,000
Energy Sector Reform	Following recommendations of the report, Analysis of the Sustainability of the Electrical Power Sector, of the Dominican Republic, USAID will fund technical assistance to improve policies for increased sustainability of power sector reforms thus enhancing competitiveness and trade of the country. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Physical Infrastructure Development	400,000
Export Competitiveness Study on Footwear	The objective of this study is to prepare a strategic report on the footwear sector in the Dominican Republic (DR), in the form of a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) that will present to public sector and industry leaders a clear picture of where the DR is positioned at this time to compete in the global market place (including niches, competitors in these niches). The consultants will outline steps required to enhance this competition at both a macro level but also concrete steps that can be taken over the short run. In effect, the consultant will recommend a strategy with specific initiatives to resolve near-term barriers to growth and set the stage for accelerating industry export development. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Export Promotion	70,000

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Export Competitiveness Study on Harmonized Schedule Code 85-Electronic	The objective of this study is to prepare a strategic report on the Harmonized Schedule (HS) Code 85 Products (Electronics) sector in the Dominican Republic (DR), in the form of a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) that will present to public sector and industry leaders a clear picture of where the DR is positioned at this time to compete in the global market place (including niches and competitors in these niches). The consultant will outline steps required to enhance this competition at both a macro level but also concrete steps that can be taken over the short run. In effect, the consultant will recommend a strategy with specific initiatives to resolve near-term barriers to growth and set the stage for accelerating industry export development. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Export Promotion	75,000
Export Competitiveness Study on Harmonized Schedule Code 90-Medical	The objective of this study is to prepare a strategic report on the Harmonized Schedule (HS) Code 90 Products (Chemicals) sector in the Dominican Republic (DR), in the form of a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) that will present to public sector and industry leaders a clear picture of where the DR is positioned at this time to compete in the global market place (including niches and competitors in these niches). The consultant will outline steps required to enhance this competition at both a macro level but also concrete steps that can be taken over the short run. In effect, the consultant will recommend a strategy with specific initiatives to resolve near-term barriers to growth and set the stage for accelerating industry export development. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Export Promotion	75,000
Export Competitiveness Study on Information and Communication Technology	The objective of this study is to prepare a strategic report on the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector in the Dominican Republic (DR), in the form of a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) that will present to public sector and industry leaders a clear picture of where the DR is positioned at this time to compete in the global ICT market place (including niches and competitors in these niches). Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	E-Commerce & IT	75,000
Food Safety and Regulatory Enforcement Training (Meat) in the DR	The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) sent a team of experts to the Dominican Republic, to do an initial assessment and provide preliminary training to several meat facilities looking to meet USDA/Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) requirements for exporting meat and meat products to the United States. This activity is in support of the Central America - Dominican Republic FTA negotiations. Funded and implemented by Department of Agriculture/FAS.	Agreement on SPS	33,670
Identifying Opportunities in Investment and Services from CAFTA-DR	The objective of this activity is to identify for the Dominican investors and service industry current opportunities to have access to the U.S. and Central America markets. This activity is in support of the Central America - Dominican Republic FTA negotiations. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Regional Trade Agreements (RTA)	30,000
Introduction of Bankruptcy Procedures in the Commerce Code	The objective of the consultancy is to assist the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) on drafting legislation to reorganize or liquidate businesses with financial problems and to create an independent instrument which permits an efficient implementation of the new rules and procedures to set up, reorganize and close a business. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Competition Policy & Foreign Investment	42,300

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Opportunities for the Dominican Republic due to CAFTA-DR Agriculture	The objective of this study is to identify opportunities to be created by the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA), emphasizing the top 10 sectors with growth potential where the Dominican Republic (DR) could be competitive with a clear picture of where the DR is positioned at this time to compete in the global market place (including niches and competitors in these niches). This activity is in support of the Central America - Dominican Republic FTA negotiations. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Export Promotion	85,000
Report on CAFTA-DR Commitments	This activity will assist the Government of Dominican Republic (GODR) in identifying the commitments made by the Dominican Republic (DR) in Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) and in identifying actions the DR must implement to take full advantage of the agreement. This project will also recommend an action plan for the DR private and public sectors to follow in compliance with the commitments. This activity is in support of the Central America - Dominican Republic FTA negotiations. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Regional Trade Agreements (RTA)	50,000
Review of Foreign Trade Zone Legal Regulation Compatibility with WTO	This activity will analyze the situation of the free trade zones (FTZs) to make recommendations on how to modify the FTZ regime so that it can qualify under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, allowing the permanency of the FTZ businesses without having to apply for waiver to the WTO. These waivers are due in 2009. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Agreement on CVMs	80,000
Rural Electrification	The objective of the National Rural Electrification Plan (NREP or IPNER in Spanish) program is to provide support to both public and private stakeholders in the Dominican Republic for continuing advances and improvements in rural and peri-urban electrification planning, project development, and systems improvements. Under NREP the plan is to promote implementation of a coherent electrification program whose goal is expansion of access to electricity for the rural and peri-urban poor. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Physical Infrastructure Development	600,000
Support for Tourism Cluster Development	This activity supports initiatives to promote better planning and environmental controls, including assessments, impact studies, and specific measures to protect patrimony. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Tourism Sector Development	70,000
Support for Trade Capacity Building - Dominican Republic	This activity is in support for trade capacity building task order provided workforce development training in the Dominican Republic to improve the competitiveness of the apparel sector. Funded and implemented by USAID/EGAT/EG.	Business Services & Training	100,000
Support for Trade in Tourism Services in the Dominican Republic	This activity will assist the Government of the Dominican Republic (GODR) in increasing the participation of the tourism private sector in the trade negotiations of tourism services. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Tourism Sector Development	70,000

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TA to Export and Investment Center on Public Tenders Procedures	The objective is to develop at the Dominican Republic Export and Investment Center (CEI-RD) a proposed procedure to sell Government of the Dominican Republic (GODR) assets, such as: a legal framework, the process itself of selling assets, and the preparation of contract for implementation. The project will review Dominican legislation related to sale and privatization of GODR assets work with CEI-RD to develop the terms of reference for the pre-qualification process, the homologation and structuring of the requirements, the contents, the previous meeting with the candidates, analysis of the proposals by the evaluation committee, the evaluation criteria, the awarding to the winner, as well as other pertinent procedures. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Tourism Sector Development	50,000
Technical Assistance on Competition Policy	The objective of this activity was to assist the Government of the Dominican Republic (GODR) in analyzing existing legislation to propose a modern legislation on competition policy for the DR. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Competition Policy & Foreign Investment	10,000
Technical Assistance on Custom Trade Databases	This activity will assist the Government of the Dominican Republic (GODR), specifically the Customs Department, in organizing trade statistics to improve their accuracy, consistency and presentation. This will allow the Dominican Republic to comply with WTO notifications and with transparency requirements of the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Customs Operation & Administration	35,000
Technical Assistance on Handicraft Integration into Tourism Clusters	The objective of the project is to explore alternatives of integrating the communities involved in tourism through handicraft. The project will identify the members of the community who are producing handicrafts, as well as those with the right aptitude who would like to work in this activity. These individuals will be assisted in improving their products and their presentation for marketing, as well their production systems, management and marketing directly to tourists or through the gift shops at the hotels or present in the community, where tourists regularly shop. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Tourism Sector Development	40,700
Technical Assistance on International Arbitration	The objective of this activity was to assist the Government of the Dominican Republic (GODR) in analyzing the international legislation to propose a modern legislation on international arbitration for the Dominican Republic (DR). The selected consultant assisted GODR officials in drafting a propose law on international arbitration and providing assistance to the negotiating team in approaches for the negotiations of the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). The draft prepared by the consultant incorporated modern concepts, generally accepted by the international community. In the same line, the negotiating team was assisted in analyzing texts of other U.S. free trade agreements (FTAs) and developing alternatives in this area to be incorporated in the DR-CAFTA negotiations. The assistance also included assisting the legal team in understanding the implications of the FTA text, including the Final Dispositions of the agreement. This activity is in support of the Central America - Dominican Republic FTA negotiations. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Regional Trade Agreements (RTA)	10,000

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Technical Assistance to Coffee Sector Competitive Enhancement	This activity is assisting producers to develop a competitive strategy with an implementation plan that will set the stage for increased exports of selected agricultural products. In addition, support is being provided to the coffee sector to access the niche coffee market for high quality highland coffee. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Trade-Related Agriculture	48,000
Technical Assistance to Design a Documentation Center on Trade	This activity will assist the government of the Dominican Republic in designing a trade documentation center located at the State Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SEREX). Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Regional Trade Agreements (RTA)	20,000
Technical Assistance to Provide Inputs into National Tourism Strategy	The project will assist the development of a National Tourism Strategy. USAID will closely coordinate efforts with the Association of Hotels and Restaurants (ASONAHORES), and other related institutions and provide specific inputs into the process. As part of the project, there will be a conference/workshop on tourism industry to analyze the actual status, problems and future directives. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Tourism Sector Development	20,000
Technical Assistance to Streamline Company Registration Procedures	This activity addresses the current company registration system, which is unnecessarily complex and time consuming. The red tape involved in the registration procedure is a significant obstacle to foreign direct investment (FDI). The registration process represents an additional and substantial business cost for companies. Furthermore, the current system does not produce useful business statistics for policy-makers. Reforming the system would also help reduce tax evasion. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Competition Policy & Foreign Investment	60,000
Technical Assistance to Strengthen the Financial Sector	The USAID Fiscal Reform project is assisting the Dominican Republic to strengthen its financial sector. USAID is providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance and the Securities Exchange (Bolsa de Valores de la República Dominicana-BVRD) to create a liquid, transparent market for short, medium and long-term public and private sector debt instruments. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Financial Sector Dev. & Good Governance	692,122
Technical Assistance to Tourism Clusters	USAID/Dominican Republic is providing assistance to different Tourism Clusters on implementing its own competitive strategy to increase the flow of tourists to the area. This activity contributes to develop trade capacity in tourism services in the DR. Currently, USAID assistance is to help them to implement strategy and action plans. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Tourism Sector Development	429,000
Technical Assistance to the Dominican Republic CAFTA-DR TCB Committee	The objective of this activity is to provide assistance to the Dominican members of the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA) Trade Capacity Building (TCB) Committee in the following tasks: (1) preparation of the national strategy and action plan, including translation into English (2) drafting the profiles of each of the proposed projects and (3) identifying sources of funding for project implementation. This activity is in support of the Central America - Dominican Republic FTA negotiations. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Regional Trade Agreements (RTA)	60,000

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Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	A principal focus of the USAID/Dominican Republic environmental program is to provide technical assistance and training to the recently formed Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources to improve their institutional capacity. This will include developing environmental standards and norms necessary to assure that trade is environmentally neutral or positive. It will also entail strengthening mechanisms for advocating, monitoring and enforcing implementation of environmental norms and standards. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Environmental Trade & Standards	1,500,000
Technical Assistance to Evaluate the Integrated Pest Management	This activity provides technical assistance in conducting an evaluation of the National Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program of the Dominican Republic (DR). This assignment had two objectives. The first is to execute a gap analysis to (1) identify service failures of the IPM Program in Azua, La Vega and Linea Noroeste for the oriental vegetable industry in providing the technical assistance, (2) provide supervision and enforcement of IPM technology packages and the inspection service and enforcement of current regulations concerning pest control and pesticide use, and (3) make recommendations to restore or improve those services as originally intended by regulation. Second, the TA conducted an evaluation of the ability of the program to add two new components to existing services: (1) technical assistance to producers and packing houses to support programs of independent quality assurance certification and (2) a role in the production and post-harvest handling of organic products. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Trade-Related Agriculture	51,000
Textile Sector Adjustment	An appropriate solution to the rapidly changing market for apparel is an accelerated upgrading of technical skills for pre-production apparel operations. By upgrading the skills of small and medium sized apparel firms, they will be able to better maintain their current customers, and in some cases to expand their sales to new customers and niche markets. The Parties to a Memorandum of Understanding, including USAID, and public and private sector organizations, will assist apparel firms wishing to upgrade their pre-production skills and adjust to evolving market conditions. Specifically, USAID will provide technical assistance in the form of consultants and technical advice. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Export Promotion	100,000
		Business Services & Training	100,000
		Activity Total	200,000
Training in Fruit Fly Control	This training will provide the Dominican Republic with the technical competency needed for a program to monitor, detect and identify newly introduced exotic fruit fly pests. This would enable the Dominican Republic to more quickly react to the introduction of such pests for their control and thereby provide some protection to the agricultural sector in the Dominican Republic from exotic fruit fly pests. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Trade-Related Agriculture	20,500
Training in Pest Risk Assessment	USAID is providing technical assistance in pest risk assessment. The use of a pest risk assessment (PRA) when considering requests for imports of plant materials will provide a scientific-based decision-making tool for the Government of the Dominican Republic that will serve to protect the Dominican agricultural sector from the importation of exotic pests. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Trade-Related Agriculture	27,000

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Training in U.S. Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)	This activity will provide Dominican exporters with training regarding the Perishable Agricultural Commodity Act (PACA) of the U.S., including the requirements and mechanism of the PACA trust, protection of foreign exporters from nonpayment by U.S. buyers, the characteristics of those cases where PACA is not an alternative for debt recovery, and alternative forms of legal recourse when PACA is not an option. Additionally, the consultant will discuss protection from bad debt in the Canadian legal system for Dominican suppliers of perishable fruits and vegetables to Canadian importers. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	Agreement on SPS	17,500
		Trade-Related Agriculture	17,500
		Activity Total	35,000
Training on WTO Notifications	USAID is assisting and training all the member institutions of the Dominican Republics Trade Negotiations Committee on how to prepare notifications under the World Trade Organization agreements as well as other bilateral and regional trade agreements. Funded and implemented by USAID/Dominican Republic.	WTO Awareness	30,000
Treasury International Affairs Technical Assistance-Banking Program	The Banking Team from the Treasury Department is providing advisors to the Government of the Dominican Republic to assist in managing budget inflows and outflows. This will lead to more prudent fiscal policies, a more favorable climate for business, and the enabling environment for international trade. Funded and implemented by Department of Treasury/IATA.	Financial Sector Dev. & Good Governance	3,705
Treasury International Affairs Technical Assistance-Enforcement Program	The Enforcement Team from the Treasury Department is providing advisors to the Government of the Dominican Republic. Funded and implemented by Department of Treasury/IATA.	Financial Sector Dev. & Good Governance	5,477
Total FY 05 USG Trade Capacity Building Assistance to the Dominican Republic			5,513,474